

COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 610) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the people of the Republic of Mozambique are to be commended for their commitment to rebuilding their nation after years of civil war, their willingness to live together harmoniously despite sharp political differences, and their ability to overcome poverty, health crises, and refugee outflows to build a growing economy and a positive future for their country, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, although I do not intend to object, I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH) and the Democratic leadership for bringing this bill to the floor. This bill makes note of the positive relationship between our country and that of Mozambique and commends Mozambique for its progress in democratization and respect for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, but I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the committee, for any comments that he might wish to make.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure for deserving Mozambique. The gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY), a member of our committee, has done us a service by bringing these issues before us. The people of Mozambique have overcome obstacles that many of us could never imagine. Thirty years of war, grinding poverty and continued disruption of normal life.

□ 2030

According to the U.N., at least one-third of the 17 million people in Mozambique were forced to flee their homes as refugees or as internally displaced persons.

In the best of times, Mr. Speaker, Mozambique is one of the poorest nations in the world. Estimates indicate a per capita income of \$80 per year. Mozambique's civil war ended in 1992. In 1994 Mozambique held its first democratic elections, which were judged to be free and fair, and which benefited from the participation of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Mozambique, like their neighbors in South Africa, stand as a model of political reconciliation. Other troubled regions of the world should look to the manner in which the Mozambique people have put away their political and other differences and have worked together to build a better future for their families.

Despite its many hurdles, Mozambique now boasts one of the world's fastest growing economies, having grown at 8 percent last year. Democracy is once again thriving in Mozambique, with both the government and the opposition working for a representative parliament and military.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) for bringing this issue before us. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution. I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for his role in this.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation of objection, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) for their support for this legislation. I announce my support for it.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my resolution of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 610

Whereas the Republic of Mozambique suffered from armed conflict for 30 years, first against Portuguese colonialism and then a brutal civil war between the FRELIMO government and RENAMO rebels;

Whereas up to one-third of Mozambique's 17,000,000 people were forced to flee their homes as refugees or internal displaced persons as a result of the civil war;

Whereas the two sides to the civil conflict reached a peace accord in 1992 and democratic elections were held in 1994 with the participation of all major political groups;

Whereas both the government of President Joachim Alberto Chissano and opposition parties have participated positively in Mozambique's representative democracy;

Whereas both the government and the opposition have made considerable strides in building a defense force that is representative of the Mozambican people;

Whereas Mozambique has rejected its communist economic policies, embraced free market principles, privatized many state enterprises, encouraged foreign investment and now enjoys one of Africa's highest economic growth rates at 8 percent per year; and

Whereas Mozambique is a fertile market for United States investment and trade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the achievements of the Mozambican people in overcoming political and economic obstacles to become a model of reconciliation and development;

(2) applauds those who have led Mozambique toward political reconciliation and away from armed conflict;

(3) commends the people of Mozambique for continuing to support democracy and democratic institutions;

(4) calls upon United States Government agencies to continue to work with their Mozambican counterparts in forging a close bilateral relationship;

(5) calls on the Government of Mozambique to continue to be a model of democracy, economic liberalization, and respect for human rights; and

(6) calls those nations in the world torn by civil strife to look toward the example of Mozambique for the benefits of political reconciliation and peaceful economic development.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WHY WOULD THE PRESIDENT SHUT THE GOVERNMENT DOWN OVER A ROAD BYPASS IN SOUTHERN OHIO?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I knew the administration was throwing its weight around on the budget agreement, but I simply could not believe it when I read in yesterday's USA Today that the President of the United States was willing to shut the Federal Government down over a road bypass in the State of Ohio.

So I tried to find out what all the fuss was about. I learned that there was a provision in the Omnibus budget bill that would have helped southern Ohio leverage existing State and Federal dollars, and I stress, existing, to fund six high-priority Appalachian Ohio projects. Even better, the so-called highway redesignation did not cost one dime more. We are talking about no money involved in this provision.

Then I find out that this particular highway provision has the full support of the Ohio Governor, George Voinovich; the Ohio Department of Transportation; local elected officials in 30 community and business groups across southern Ohio. So I asked myself, why was the White House willing to shut the Federal Government down on a highway designation that helped southern Ohio?

Apparently, Mr. Speaker, the White House has a political reason for opposing this small highway provision and threatening a government shutdown. I have a copy here of the actual letter from Erskine Bowles, the Chief of Staff of the President, to our Speaker stating pointblank that the President would shut down the government over this one small Ohio highway provision.

Mr. Speaker, I just cannot understand why this White House is willing to play such high-stakes political hardball over a simple Ohio bypass.

SOME REAL VICTORIES IN THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATION BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have been told that budgets are about priorities, where the taxpayers' money should be spent, and where the goals and objectives which we hope to accomplish can be approached in an effort to meet them.

The \$500 billion omnibus appropriation bill which we just passed and I voted for contains funding for many of our governmental agencies which provide a glimmer of hope for the poor, elderly, and disinherited of our society. While this bill is not picture perfect, it does in fact contain some real victories for many people throughout America.

The defense appropriation is too high, but we fought off attempts to cut the summer jobs program for disadvantaged youth. They now have hope again. We resisted attempts to cut low-income home energy assistance programs. Now seniors and others on fixed incomes will not have to choose between staying warm in the winter or buying food to eat. When the hawk comes to the windy city, to Chicago, and the wind off Lake Michigan drops temperatures to zero, 5, 10, and 15 degrees below, low-income people will have some help to try and keep warm.

We prevailed in getting \$1.1 billion as a down payment for 100,000 new teachers, which means that we will be able to reduce class size. Unfortunately, we did not get the money needed for school construction, which absolutely makes no sense, because what is the use in having teachers if we do not have schools?

The bill contains a significant amount of money for health care, which pleases me greatly. The \$100 million increase for federally qualified community health centers will go a long way toward serving the large number of uninsured Americans in rural and inner city communities.

It has \$10.6 billion for the National Institutes of Health budget, which provides much needed money for medical research; \$110 million to address HIV-AIDS in the African American community; \$1.4 billion for the Ryan White AIDS program, and \$105 million for the Healthy Start program.

This bill also contains needed funding for education: \$1.2 billion as a down payment to reduce class size; \$125 million for the school-to-work opportunities programs, which help ease the transition from school to work; \$600 million for TRIO funding; \$995 million for adult job training, which would fund about 386,000 participants.

But in reality, this bill is a testament to the will of the American people, who have indicated that they place substance over rhetoric, and that they appreciate real leadership.

I commend my colleagues, and I commend President Clinton for his politi-

cal acumen and skill in orchestrating this compromise. It is good for my district, and it is good for America.

AMERICA'S VULNERABILITY TO BALLISTIC MISSILE ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I have come before this body over 150 times to talk to my colleagues and the American public about what I see are some of the important issues that this country faces.

Oftentimes my colleagues on the other side have repeatedly accused the Republicans of leading a "do-nothing" Congress. In one sense, I am very sorry to report that they are correct. This Congress has done nothing about our Nation's vulnerability to ballistic missile attack. Congress has failed to begin building a national missile defense system, a failure that is so inexcusable I will have to agree with my liberal Democratic colleagues, at least on this one point.

The United States has a policy of deliberately remaining vulnerable to a missile attack. Instead of building a national missile defense system, we place our faith in a piece of paper called the ABM Treaty. Our national security depends, therefore, on tyrants, dictators, and international thugs to respect that piece of paper.

Does anyone really believe that Saddam Hussein cares that we have signed an ABM treaty, a treaty with a country that no longer exists? Does anyone really believe that Mu'ammar Qadhafi will think twice about threatening the United States because we have signed the ABM treaty? Did Osama bin Laden reconsider his terrorist strikes against our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania because we are signatories to the ABM Treaty?

What good will the ABM treaty be against the Islamic bombs, weapons which will soon be in the hands of rogue nations whose citizens demonstrate against the great Satan by burning the American flag? Did North Korea step back from launching missiles into Japanese territory because America has signed an arms control agreement with a country that no longer exists?

Mr. Speaker, this policy of deliberate vulnerability is dangerous, it is foolish, and it is counterproductive. What is also strange is that we already have a technology to deploy a missile defense system. The U.S. Navy's Aegis cruisers are equipped with the technology that can be converted into a national missile defense system at a minimal expense. The Navy has already spent billions of dollars perfecting the state-of-the-art system, and it defies logic to prevent that system from being developed to end our vulnerability to a missile strike.

I do not understand why the other side refuses to take dangerous threats seriously. Must we always be surprised when the threat is upon us? How many times in history must we learn the hard way? How many more examples of rogue nations threatening the United States do we need to have before we wake up to the threats? Must the United States squander the technological edge that it has built up over the years with billions and billions of dollars for the sake of a meaningless arms control agreement?

Mr. Speaker, although we have, in the recently passed budget, approximately \$1 billion for some antiballistic missile research and development, the American people expect more. They deserve more, and failure to do so is a violation of the public trust.

I might remind my friends on the other side of the aisle that the preamble to the Constitution declares to all the world that "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, and provide for the common defense."

Let us stop there, and provide for the common defense of this Nation, Mr. Speaker. Failure to build a national missile defense system immediately is a failure to provide for the common defense of America. Every single person in America will know it, but will they know it far too late to take advantage of it?

□ 2045

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Speaker Newt Gingrich made his remarks in discussing the omnibus budget that we just passed, he asked the question, what we would have done if we had not passed this legislation. Frankly, I agree with him that this was a must-do situation. But it was not a situation that could not have been done differently. And frankly, those of us who voted for this legislation clearly recognized that the process was faulty, that what might have been totally best for the American people was not concluded because of the haste in which we had to work.

I am, of course, concerned with many issues that impact my district. And frankly, we have made some progress on this omnibus bill. I am glad that homeless youth in Texas will have an additional \$300,000 as given to Covenant House, Texas, and I am glad of the work of the appropriators with my offers to secure these dollars for that very worthy cause, to bring young homeless people into a clean and secure place in order to get them back on track.

I will be able to tell my housing authority, where some 25,000 people remain on a waiting list for housing, that